



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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VDOT BRISTOL'S WEEKLY TRAFFIC ALERT: July 27 – August 2, 2009

BRISTOL, Va. – In an effort to keep motorists informed, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides weekly information about highway construction and maintenance projects in southwestern Virginia. When traveling through highway work zones, use caution and be alert to changes in traffic patterns and slow-moving or stopped traffic.

Motorists face a maximum fine of \$500 for speeding in highway work zones. Law enforcement officers monitor highway work zones throughout the region.

INTERSTATE PROJECTS

*****Interstate 81 – milling and paving:** Anticipate lane closures this week on I-81 southbound between Exit 60 and the Smyth/Wythe County line due to milling and paving. Also be alert to milling and paving work at the Exit 60 southbound on ramp. (Completion: August 2009)

*****Interstate 81 – guardrail installation:** Milling and paving work has been completed and guardrail installation work is underway on northbound Interstate 81 between mile markers 63 and 66 in Wythe County. Be alert to the possibility of daytime lane closures while work is underway. (Completion: August 2009)

Interstate 81 Safety Improvements – Wythe County: Be alert to periodic lane closures due to extension of the Interstate 81 Exit 77 northbound deceleration lanes of the southbound and northbound ramps. Also be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to the extension of the Interstate 81 Exit 80 right turn lanes of the southbound and northbound ramps. Use caution in this area while safety improvements are underway. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

*****Interstate 77 maintenance activities:** Anticipate lane closures due to the following maintenance activities on Interstate 77:

- Guardrail repairs northbound near mile marker 23 in Wythe County and mile marker 50 in Bland County.
- Pothole patching along the I-77 corridor in Virginia.

*****Interstates 81 maintenance activities:** The following maintenance activities are scheduled along Interstate 81 in southwestern Virginia this week:

- Guardrail repairs northbound near Exit 14 in Abingdon and mile marker 84 in Wythe County.
- Pothole patching in Washington, Smyth and Wythe counties.
- Bridge deck patching in Washington County on southbound I-81 near mile marker 11 and northbound near mile markers 9 and 18.

PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AND HIGH TRAFFIC SECONDARY ROADS:

*****Pavement Markings - mobile, rolling work zones:** Be alert to a caravan of slow-moving trucks applying pavement markings on highways at various locations **in the Vansant and Garden Creek areas of Buchanan County and the Appalachia area of Wise County.**

Buchanan County

*****Route 460 Grundy – Phase II:** Motorists and pedestrians should be alert to large construction vehicles entering and exiting Route 460 at Royal City due to demolition work in the area.

Use caution in these areas and be alert to the possibility flaggers directing traffic. The posted speed limit is 25 mph in the work zone. Motorists should use caution and pay close attention to signs directing traffic through the work zone. (Completion: mid-November 2011)

Buchanan County- Water Line Installation: Work to install water lines in the following areas of Buchanan County will restrict traffic to one lane during daylight hours:

- Route 601 – Convict Hollow (Completion: summer 2009)
- Route 655 – Lynn Camp (Completion: September 2009)

Dickenson County

Water line installation – various routes: Beginning in April and extending through summer 2010, be alert to periodic lane closures due to water line installation work on the following routes in Dickenson County:

Route 63 – Big Ridge Road

Route 637 – Rose Ridge and D.C. Caney Ridge Road

Route 638 – Hill Ridge

Route 614 – Flannagan Dam Road

Route 648 – Rachel’s Chapel Road

Route 646 – Hamilton Town Road

Route 771 – Copperhead Road

Route 709 – Tan Trough Branch

Route 818 – Patsy Lane

Routes 679 – Nancy Hollow

Route 760.

Route 80 – water line installation: Work to install water lines on Route 80 in Dickenson County is underway. The project is located between the intersection of Route 682 and the Dickenson County line. Use caution in this area. (Completion: late summer 2009)

*****Route 611 widening:** Work is underway to widen Route 611 in Dickenson County, just north of Clintwood. Drivers should expect delays in the area and watch for flaggers controlling traffic on weekdays during daylight hours. **(Completion: August 2009)**

Grayson County

*****Route 94 bridge over New River:** The Route 94 bridge over the New River in Grayson County will be closed for repairs August 17 – 31. Motorists can detour around the project by using Routes 58/221, 94 and 274. (Completion: August 31, 2009)

Route 58 bridge repairs: Due to bridge repairs, traffic is being controlled by signals on the Route 58 bridge over Peach Bottom Creek located just east of Independence in Grayson County. The bridge is restricted to one 14-foot-wide lane during repairs. Use caution in this area. (Completion: May 2010)

Route 842 (Twin Pond Road): Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 842 (Twin Pond Road) in the Fries area. (Completion: December 2009)

Route 748 (Laurel Creek Road): Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 748 (Laurel Creek Road) in the Rugby area. (Completion: December 2009)

Lee County

Alternate Route 58: Due to a bridge reconstruction project, signals are controlling one 12-foot-wide lane across the Alternate Route 58 bridge over the North Powell River in Pennington Gap. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to signs in the work zone. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

Russell County

Route 82 (Cleveland Road): Be alert to the possibility of delays on Route 82 (Cleveland Road) in Russell County due to curve widening work. (Completion: September 2009)

Route 618: A section of Route 618 in the Rabbit Ridge section of Russell County has been closed to allow Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC to perform surface mine operations in the area. The 0.4-mile section begins about one-mile east of Route 600 and extends eastward. When the mining operations are complete, Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC will rebuild the closed section of Route 618, eliminating steep grades and sharp curves along the existing section of Route 618.

Russell County- Water Line Installation: Work to install water lines is underway on:

- Route 19 between Lebanon and Hansonville in Russell County. Motorists may also experience delays on Routes 657 and 660 due to the project. (Completion: summer 2009)
- Route 657 (Green Valley Road) (Completion: November 2009)

Use caution and be alert to traffic restrictions during daylight hours.

Smyth County

Route 622 (Nick's Creek Road): Due to a project to widen and replace a bridge on Route 622 (Nick's Creek Road) in Smyth County, a section of the route is closed to traffic. Motorists can detour around the project by using Kelly Hill Road, Pierce Road, Big Prater Road and Route 16. Motorists are advised to use caution in this area and pay close attention to detour signs. (Completion: December 1, 2009)

Tazewell County

Route 19/460 bridge project: Two-way traffic through the Route 19/460 bridge work zone has been shifted to the southbound lanes. Use caution and slow down through the work zone while motorists become familiar with the new traffic pattern. The Lake Street entrance to Route 19/460 is temporarily detoured onto Post Street due to the construction. Additionally, the entrance to Quarry Road will be temporarily detoured through the Miner's Oil entrance. There will be a 12-foot-width restriction in the work zone. (Completion: October 2009)

Wise County

Route 78 bridge: Traffic crossing the Route 78 bridge over Callahan Creek at Appalachia is being controlled by signals. The bridge has been reduced to one 12-foot-lane while the superstructure is being replaced. (Completion: November 2009)

Wythe County

***** Route 649 – Atkins Mill Road:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures on a section of Route 649 (Atkins Mill Road) in the Wytheville area due to roadway improvements. (Completion: December 2009)

Route 100 bridge and Route 637 (Greenbriar Road): Due to bridge repairs, the Route 100 bridge over Little Reed Island Creek has been restricted to one 12-foot-wide lane and traffic signals are controlling traffic on both ends of the bridge. Route 637 (Greenbriar Road) in Wythe County has been closed due to the bridge project. Route 100 can be accessed from Route 637 about 1.5-miles south of the bridge project (Completion: May 2010)

Completed

Interstate 81 – milling and paving: Milling and paving work has been completed on northbound Interstate 81 between mile markers 63 and 66 in Wythe County.

Route 460: Milling and paving on Route 460 at Doran has been completed.

Route 83: The installation of a culvert on Route 83 is completed (as of the afternoon of Friday, July 24).

(END)